

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 04486 290406Z

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INFO AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN

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AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4486

LIMDIS

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS PFOR, UN, SF

SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICAN PERM REP'S CALL ON AMBASSADOR

BENNETT, OCTOBER 28

1. SOUTH AFRICAN PERMREP BOTHA AT HIS REQUEST CALLED ON AMBASSADOR BENNETT, OCTOBER 28, TO DISCUSS LATEST ASSESSMENT SOUTH AFRICAN ISSUE AT UN. BOTHA PRESENTED BENNETT WITH COPY OF RELEASE BY SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS AGENCY. FIRST PARAGRAPH OF PRESS RELEASE SAYS "DR. KAUNDA (IN SPEECH OCTOBER 26 AT UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA) SAID THAT IN A RECENT SPEECH THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER, MR. JOHN VORSTER, HAD PLEDGED HIMSELF AND HIS GOVERNMENT TO LOOK FOR PEACE AND HAD DECLARED HIS FAITH IN THE FUTURE. "THIS, I DARE SAY, IS THE VOICE OF REASON FOR WHICH AFRICA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD HAVE WAITED', HE SAID". BOTHA DECLARED HIS GOVERNMENT IS LAYING GREAT STORE BY THIS KAUNDA STATEMENT, WHICH SOUTH AFRICANS SEE AS REASONABLE RESPONSE BY NEIGHBOR TO SOUTH AFRICAN INITIATIVES OF
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 04486 290406Z

PAST SEVERAL DAYS.

2. BENNETT COMMENTED WE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED REPORT OF STATEMENT BY KAUNDA, AND WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT FOR STATEMENT TO HAVE CREDIBILITY AND IMPORT IN UN CIRCLES IT WOULD HAVE TO BE DISTRIBUTED, OR AT LEAST CONFIRMED AND ACKNOWLEDGED BY ZAMBIAN REP. FOR LUSAKA: USUN WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT OF THESE ALLEGED REMARKS BY KAUNDA.

3. BOTHA SPOKE OF "THREE SPEECHES OF REASON" IN WHICH HE GROUPED VORSTER'S RECENT DECLARATION TO SOUTH AFRICAN SENATE IN CAPETOWN, HIS OWN SPEECH BEFORE SECURITY COUNCIL OCTOBER 24 AND ABOVE CITED KAUNDA STATEMENT. IN BOTHA'S OPINION, SOUTHERN AFRICANS--WHITES AND BLACKS--HAVE NOW GIVEN CLEAR SIGNALS OF INTENT AND RESPONSE AND NEED TIME TO WORK OUT PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS TO THEIR PROBLEMS.

4. SOUTH AFRICAN URGED THAT UN NOW LAY OFF SOUTH AFRICA AND GIVE IT TIME TO WORK OUT THESE SOLUTIONS. HE EXPRESSED OPINION NUMEROUS AFRICAN REPS IN NEW YORK FAVOR SOMETHING LESS THAN SOUTH AFRICA'S EXPULSION FROM UN. HOWEVER, HE COMMENTED, NO AFRICAN REP WANTS TO BE THE FIRST TO BREAK RANKS TO ESPOUSE SUCH A COURSE PUBLICLY. IN SIDE COMMENT HE SUGGESTED AFRICANS DISTRUST ONE ANOTHER ON ISSUE, SOME SUSPECTING THAT OTHERS HAVE ALREADY HAD SECRET CONTACT WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND THEREFORE FIRST AFRICAN COUNTRY TO TAKE REASONABLE LINE ON SOUTH AFRICA MIGHT COMPROMISE ITSELF.

5. IN DISCUSSING POSSIBLE UN ACTION SHORT OF EXPULSION, BOTHA ONCE MORE WARNED AGAINST IMPOSING DEADLINES ON SOUTH AFRICA. AT ONE POINT HE INDICATED IN GREAT CONFIDENCE HE HAD SET HIMSELF TIME LIMIT OF TWELVE MONTHS TO ACHIEVE "SOME BASIC CHANGES" IN SOUTH AFRICAN APPROACH TO PROBLEMS OF BLACK AND WHITE COMMUNITIES. SPEAKING FRANKLY, HE SAID HE WOULD PREFER FOR NOW NO COMPROMISE AND AN EXPULSION RESOLUTION (WHICH HE HOPED WOULD BE VETOED) TO COMPROMISE RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD SET IMPOSSIBLE DEADLINE. BOTHA AGAIN STRESSED HE HAD EXTENDED HIMSELF TREMENDOUSLY TO APPEAR REASONABLE TO UN, RISKING HIS OWN POSITION AT HOME, AND THAT HE HOPED UN WOULD PROVE RESPONSIVE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 04486 290406Z

6. BENNETT SUGGESTED TO BOTHA THAT PROBLEM BEFORE SC WAS TO AVOID EXPULSION DECISION BY FINDING LANGUAGE THAT WOULD MEET AFRICAN ACCEPTANCE AND AT SAME TIME WOULD NOT DRAW REJECTING BY SOUTH AFRICA. THIS WAS A FINE LINE AND WOULD REQUIRE SKILLFUL HANDLING BUT HE COULD ASSURE BOTHA THAT SC MEMBERS WERE PUTTING THEIR MINDS TO IT.

7. BOTHA MADE POINT OF ASKING THAT DEPARTMENT BE ADVISED OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR REACTION TO HIS OCTOBER 24 SPEECH WHICH WAS PRONOUNCED BY DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN. QUERIED ABOUT UK REACTION, HE SAID BRITISH PRESS REACTION HAD PLEASED SAG.

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